

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-30. (cancelled)

31. (new) A method for handling of an endless belt for an electrophotographic printer or copier, comprising the steps of:

5 bearing an endless belt with aid of a first, a second and a third cylindrical body;

inserting the first cylindrical body through a loop of the endless belt;

arranging the second cylindrical body outside of the loop of the endless belt and parallel to the first cylindrical body;

10 winding the endless belt around the first and the second cylindrical bodies;

inserting the third cylindrical body through the loop at a free end of the endless belt before or during a wrapping of the first and the second cylindrical body with the endless belt;

15 housing the cylindrical bodies with the wound endless belt in a container; and

arranging the container for extraction of the endless belt such that the cylindrical bodies lie horizontal, and raising the third cylindrical body from the container into a horizontal position such that the endless belt wound around
20 the first and the second cylindrical bodies unwinds.

32. (new) A method according to claim 31 in which the endless belt is wound around the first and the second cylindrical bodies so often that the third cylindrical body rests on a wound unit formed from the first cylindrical body, the second cylindrical body, and the endless belt wound around them.

25 33. (new) A method according to claim 31 in which at least one of the cylindrical bodies protrudes at its ends over a width of the endless belt, and ends of the at least one cylindrical body uncovered by the endless belt are supported in supports provided in the container.

34. (new) A method according to claim 33 in which at least one of the supports has a round support surface.

35. (new) A method according to claim 33 in which at least one of the supports is formed by a frame in which are arranged the ends of the cylindrical bodies uncovered by the endless belt.

36. (new) A method according to claim 35 in which the frame is dimensioned so narrow that a wound unit formed from the first and second cylindrical bodies and the endless belt, and the third cylindrical body, are held together.

37. (new) A method according to claim 35 in which the frame is formed by a recess in a carrier element that has a substantially circular segment that forms a round support surface.

38. (new) A method according to claim 32 in which the wound unit unrolls on a round support surface upon unwinding of the endless belt.

39. (new) A method according to claim 35 in which the third cylindrical body is extracted from the frame through an opening in the frame.

40. (new) A method according to claim 39 in which a seal is provided with which the opening can be sealed such that none of the cylindrical bodies can leave the frame via the opening.

41. (new) A method according to claim 40 in which the seal is formed by a web that is shaped on a cover of the container and that, given a closed cover, protrudes into the opening.

42. (new) A method according to claim 41 in which, upon closing of the cover, the web is inserted between two of the cylindrical bodies in a region of the ends uncovered by the endless belt.

43. (new) A method according to claim 31 in which the cylindrical bodies are formed as tubes that are mounted on mounts of the printer or copier after an extraction of the endless belt from the container, and in which the endless belt is slid across the tubes into the printer or copier.

44. (new) A method according to claim 43 in which the mounts are arranged on the printer or copier such that, upon mounting of the tubes, the endless belt looped around the tubes assumes a shape that it has in the printer or copier.

5 45. (new) A method according to claim 43 in which the third tube is mounted on an uppermost mount with the endless belt suspended from it, said endless belt being weighted down by the first tube lying in its loop, the first tube being mounted on a lowermost mount; and the second tube being directed through the loop of the endless belt and is mounted on a middle
10 mount.

46. (new) An endless belt handling system unit, comprising:

an endless belt and a holder system;

the holder system comprising a first, a second and a third cylindrical body for bearing the endless belt;

15 the first cylindrical body being inserted through a loop of the endless belt;

the second cylindrical body being arranged outside of the loop of the endless belt and parallel to the first cylindrical body;

20 the endless belt being wound around the first and the second cylindrical bodies;

the third cylindrical boy being inserted through the loop at a free end of the endless belt wound around the first and the second cylindrical bodies;

25 a container in which the cylindrical bodies are housed with the wound endless belt, at least one of the cylindrical bodies protruding at its ends over a width of the endless belt, and the ends of the at least one cylindrical body that are uncovered by the endless belt resting on supports provided in the container;

at least one of the supports being formed by a frame in which are arranged the ends of the cylindrical bodies uncovered by the endless belt; and

the frame having an opening through which the third cylindrical body is extractable.

47. (new) A system according to claim 46, in which the endless belt is wound around the first and the second cylindrical bodies so often that the
5 third cylindrical body rests on a wound unit formed from the first cylindrical body, the second cylindrical body, and the endless belt wound around them.

48. (new) A system according to claim 46 in which at least one of the supports has a round support surface.

49. (new) A system according to claim 46 in which the frame is
10 dimensioned such that it holds the wound unit and the third cylindrical body together.

50. (new) A system according to claim 46 in which the frame is formed by a recess in a carrier element that has a substantially circular segment that forms a round support surface.

15 51. (new) A system according to claim 46 in which the opening is formed such that the recess in the carrier element extends until an edge of the carrier element at at least one point.

52. (new) A system according to claim 46 in which a seal is provided with which the opening is sealed such that none of the cylindrical
20 bodies can leave the frame via the opening.

53. (new) A system according to claim 52 in which the seal is formed by a web that is shaped on a cover of the container and that, given a closed cover, protrudes into the opening.

54. (new) A system according to claim 53 in which, given a closed
25 cover, the web protrudes between two of the cylindrical bodies in a region of the ends uncovered by the endless belt.

55. (new) A system according to claim 46 in which the third cylindrical body is optically identified.

56. (new) A system according to claim 46 in which the cylindrical bodies are formed by cardboard tubes.

57. (new) A system according to clai 46 in which the endless belt comprises a photoconductor belt for an electrophotographic printer or copier.

5 58. (new) A system for electrophotographic printing or copying, comprising:

an electrophotographic printer or copier;

an endless belt that is insertable into the printer or copier and a holder system for the endless belt;

10 said holder system comprising a first, a second, and a third cylindrical body for bearing the endless belt;

an endless belt handling system comprising said endless belt and said holder system;

said cylindrical bodies comprising tubes;

15 the first cylindrical body being inserted through a loop of the endless belt;

the second cylindrical body being arranged outside of the loop of the endless belt and parallel to the first cylindrical body;

20 the endless belt being wound around the first and second cylindrical bodies;

the third cylindrical body being inserted through the loop at a free end of the endless belt wound around the first and the second cylindrical bodies;

25 a container in which the cylindrical bodies are housed with the wound endless belt, at least one of the cylindrical bodies protruding at its ends over a width of the endless belt, and the ends of the at least one cylindrical body that are uncovered by the endless belt resting on supports provided in the container; and

the printer or copier having mounts in which the tubes are mountable, the mounts being arranged such that, upon removal of the tubes and endless belt from the container, upon mounting of the tubes on the mounts, the endless belt looped around the tubes assumes a shape it has in the printer or copier.

59. (new) A system according to claim 58 in which the mounts are formed by mounting spikes.

60. (new) A system according to claim 58 in which an association of a tube with a mount is optically identified.

61. (new) A method for handling of an endless belt for an electrophotographic printer or copier, comprising the steps of:

bearing an endless belt with aid of a first, a second, and a third cylindrical body;

inserting the first cylindrical body through a loop of the endless belt;

15 arranging the second cylindrical body outside of the loop of the endless belt and parallel to the first cylindrical body;

winding the endless belt around the first and second cylindrical bodies;

providing the third cylindrical body through the loop at a free end of the endless belt; and

20 housing the cylindrical bodies with the wound endless belt in a container.